

CHAPTER 292

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 09-160

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also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Todd, Acree, Benefield, Fischer, Green, Kerr J., Labuda, Massey, Merrifield, Nikkel, Peniston, Priola, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Stephens, Summers, Vigil, Waller, Carroll T.

AN ACT

CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE P-20 COUNCIL RELATING TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, STREAMLINING AND ALIGNING THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER AND THE TEACHER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMS, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Repeal of provisions being relocated in this act. 22-32-110.3 and 22-32-110.4, Colorado Revised Statutes, are repealed.

SECTION 2. 22-60.5-102 (4), (5), and (10), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended, and the said 22-60.5-102 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

22-60.5-102. Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(4) "Alternative teacher contract" means a contract, as described in section 22-60.5-207, entered into for an alternative teacher position by a holder of an alternative teacher license PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-201 (1) (a) and a school district, ~~or accredited independent~~ NONPUBLIC school, OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES that ~~has an~~ PROVIDES A ONE-YEAR OR TWO-YEAR alternative teacher program.

(5) "Alternative teacher program" means a ONE-YEAR OR TWO-YEAR program of study and training for teacher preparation, as described in section 22-60.5-205, for ~~persons~~ A PERSON of demonstrated knowledge and ability who ~~holds~~ HOLDS an alternative teacher license pursuant to section 22-60.5-201 (1) (a). An "alternative

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

teacher program" shall meet the standards of and obtain the approval of the state board of education and, upon completion, lead to a recommendation for licensure by the ~~school district or districts or the accredited independent school~~ DESIGNATED AGENCY providing the alternative teacher program.

(9.5) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-115, C.R.S.

(10) "Designated agency" means a school district or districts, an accredited ~~independent~~ NONPUBLIC school, ~~or~~ A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, an accepted institution of higher education, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, or any combination thereof, which is responsible for the organization, management, and operation of an approved alternative teacher program.

SECTION 3. The introductory portion to 22-60.5-111 (4) (a) and 22-60.5-111 (4) (a) (III), (8), and (14) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications.

(4) **Emergency authorization.** (a) The department ~~of education~~ may issue an emergency authorization to an applicant who is enrolled in an approved preparation program but has not yet met the requirements for an initial educator license. The department may issue an emergency authorization if:

(III) The state board of education determines that employment of the applicant is essential to preservation of the school district's instructional program and that establishment of ~~an~~ A ONE-YEAR OR TWO-YEAR alternative teacher preparation program ~~or a teacher in residence program~~ within the school district is not a practicable solution for resolution of the demonstrated shortage.

(8) ~~Teacher in residence authorization.~~ The department of education may issue a teacher in residence authorization to a person who meets the requirements for a teacher in residence authorization, as stated in rules adopted by the state board of education, consistent with the provisions of section 22-32-110.3. A teacher in residence authorization is valid for two years and may not be renewed, except that, if the person holding the teacher in residence authorization is enrolled in a program in special education offered by an accepted institution of higher education and approved by the state board of education, the teacher in residence authorization is valid for three years. A school district may employ a person who holds a teacher in residence authorization only in an approved teacher in residence program.

(14) **Principal authorization.** (a) The department ~~of education~~ may issue a principal authorization to a person who does not hold a principal license, but who holds an earned baccalaureate or higher degree from an accepted institution of higher education and who will be employed pursuant to the provisions of ~~section 22-32-110.4~~ SECTION 22-60.5-305.5 by a school district under an individualized alternative principal program, if the program is approved by the state board as provided in this subsection (14). A school district may employ a person who holds a principal authorization to perform the duties of a principal or a vice-principal in a school, so long as the person who holds the authorization is under the supervision of a professional principal licensee.

SECTION 4. The introductory portion to 22-60.5-201 (1), 22-60.5-201 (1) (a), the introductory portion to 22-60.5-201 (1) (b) (I), and 22-60.5-201 (1) (b) (I) (B) and (1) (b) (II.5), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

22-60.5-201. Types of teacher licenses issued - term. (1) The department of education is designated as the sole agency authorized to issue the following teacher licenses to persons of good moral character:

(a) **Alternative teacher license.** (I) ~~Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (H) of this paragraph (a);~~ The department of education may, at its discretion, issue an alternative teacher license to any applicant who:

(A) Holds an earned baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited institution of higher education; ~~and~~

(B) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2004, p. 1279, § 3, effective May 28, 2004.)

(C) Has been recommended by an accepted institution of higher education as ~~having met subject matter requirements~~ HOLDING A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE and has demonstrated to the state board of education, in a manner prescribed by rule of the board PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-203 (6), the subject matter knowledge necessary for teaching in the appropriate endorsement areas. ~~and~~

(D) Agrees to participate fully in ~~the~~ A ONE-YEAR OR TWO-YEAR alternative teacher program provided by ~~the school district or districts or accredited independent school serving as the employing agent~~ A DESIGNATED AGENCY.

(II) ~~The department of education may, in its discretion, issue an alternative teacher license to any applicant who:~~

(A) ~~Holds an earned baccalaureate degree from an accepted institution of higher education; and~~

(B) ~~Has met the standards of the state board of education concerning academic and professional preparation and performance.~~

(III) ~~Such~~ HOLDERS OF alternative teacher ~~licensees~~ LICENSES shall not be used to replace regularly licensed teachers in any action resulting from a contract dispute.

(IV) An alternative teacher license shall be valid in any school district or accredited ~~independent~~ NONPUBLIC school ~~that provides an alternative teacher program~~ and shall entitle its holder to work exclusively as an alternative teacher pursuant to the terms of an alternative teacher contract. ~~An alternative teacher license issued pursuant to this paragraph (a) shall be valid for a period of one year after the date of issuance and may be renewed for only one additional year only on written evidence that the employing school district or independent school anticipates extending the alternative teacher's contract for one additional year pursuant to the provisions of section 22-60.5-207 (2).~~ A HOLDER OF AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE IS THE TEACHER OF RECORD.

(V) FOR APPLICANTS ENROLLED IN A ONE-YEAR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER

PROGRAM, THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (a) SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE AND MAY BE RENEWED FOR ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR, BUT ONLY UPON WRITTEN EVIDENCE THAT THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT, ACCREDITED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES ANTICIPATES EXTENDING THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER'S CONTRACT FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 22-60.5-207 (2). FOR APPLICANTS ENROLLED IN A TWO-YEAR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM, THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (a) SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.

(b) **Initial teacher license.** (I) Except as otherwise provided in ~~subparagraphs (H) and (H.5)~~ SUBPARAGRAPH (II) of this paragraph (b), the department, ~~of education~~, in its discretion, may issue an initial teacher license to any applicant who:

(B) Has completed an approved program of preparation for teachers or ~~an~~ A ONE-YEAR OR TWO-YEAR alternative teacher program;

~~(II.5) The department of education, in its discretion, may issue an initial teacher license to any applicant who:~~

~~(A) Has successfully completed a teacher in residence program implemented by a school district or board of cooperative services pursuant to section 22-32-110.3 and has been recommended for licensure by the employing school district; and~~

~~(B) Has demonstrated professional competencies in subject areas as specified by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section 22-60.5-203.~~

SECTION 5. 22-60.5-203, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS to read:

22-60.5-203. Assessment of professional competencies - rules. (5) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL, BY RULE, ESTABLISH COMMON CREDIT HOUR STANDARDS FOR ALL APPROVED TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SATISFYING PARAGRAPH (c) OF SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

(6) FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING MINIMUM COMPETENCY IN A LICENSURE ENDORSEMENT AREA, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH MINIMUM COURSEWORK STANDARDS THAT ALIGN WITH THE CONTENT STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-109 (3). MINIMUM COURSEWORK STANDARDS MAY BE SHOWN IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

(a) FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS, INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST TEACHERS, PASSAGE OF THE ELEMENTARY CONTENT TEST;

(b) FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS:

(I) A DEGREE IN THE ENDORSEMENT AREA;

(II) PASSAGE OF A CONTENT TEST IN THE ENDORSEMENT AREA; OR

(III) TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF COURSEWORK IN THE ENDORSEMENT AREA.

SECTION 6. 22-60.5-205, Colorado Revised Statutes, is REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

22-60.5-205. One-year and two-year alternative teacher programs - legislative declaration - standards and evaluation - duties of department - duties of the state board of education - fees. (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(I) MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS FACE A SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS AND OFTEN STRUGGLE TO FIND QUALIFIED PERSONS TO TEACH THEIR STUDENTS;

(II) THE INCREASED USE OF EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS TO HIRE PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE TEACHER LICENSES AND, IN SOME CASES, HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY FORM OF TEACHER PREPARATION OR EDUCATION POTENTIALLY JEOPARDIZES A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOAL OF PROVIDING A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR EACH STUDENT; AND

(III) OFTEN, PERSONS WITH EXPERIENCE IN AREAS OTHER THAN EDUCATION CAN HELP ALLEVIATE THE TEACHER SHORTAGE FACED BY MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SO LONG AS THESE PERSONS RECEIVE ADEQUATE SUPERVISION AND EDUCATION IN TEACHING METHODS AND PRACTICES.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE DECLARES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO ALLOW DESIGNATED AGENCIES TO CREATE ONE-YEAR AND TWO-YEAR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION WITH THE INTENT THAT THESE PROGRAMS PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR DESIGNATED AGENCIES TO CUSTOMIZE THE PREPARATION OF TEACHER CANDIDATES, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED UNDER EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS, AND HELP DESIGNATED AGENCIES RECRUIT AND EMPLOY NONTRADITIONAL TEACHER CANDIDATES, WHILE MAINTAINING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM STANDARDS, DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, AND PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS.

(2) DESIGNATED AGENCIES ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT ONE-YEAR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAMS OR TWO-YEAR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAMS, WHICH TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS WERE FORMERLY KNOWN AS TEACHER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMS, AS FOLLOWS:

(a) A ONE-YEAR ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM SHALL BE DESIGNED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE YEAR. HOWEVER, THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY EXTEND AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER'S PARTICIPATION FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR BASED ON UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EXPECTATION THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER WILL COMPLETE THE PROGRAM IN THE SECOND YEAR.

(b) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, SUPERVISION BY MENTOR TEACHERS, PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS, AND A PROGRAM MINIMUM OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE CLOCK HOURS OF PLANNED INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE TRAINING IN DROPOUT

PREVENTION. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF PLANNED INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER SUPPORT TEAM, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-60.5-206, FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER BASED UPON HIS OR HER QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERIENCE.

(c) A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT CHOOSES TO IMPLEMENT AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM MAY COLLABORATE AND CONTRACT WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PROVIDES AN APPROVED TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM. A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (c) SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE PROVISION OF TEACHER PREPARATION COURSES AND SUBJECT MATTER COURSES AS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH THE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-121, C.R.S.

(d) (I) A PERSON EMPLOYED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER SHALL HOLD AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-201 (1) (a). EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (d) AND SECTION 22-60.5-207 (2), A PERSON MAY BE EMPLOYED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER FOR A TOTAL OF TWO YEARS. A PERSON EMPLOYED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER SHALL MEET THE CONTENT-AREA EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(II) A PERSON MAY BE EMPLOYED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER FOR A TOTAL OF THREE YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING ENDORSEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-106 (2).

(e) UPON COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM, THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER SHALL OBTAIN AN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-201 (1) (b) (I) IN ORDER TO BE EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A TEACHER.

(f) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER SHALL COMPLETE HIS OR HER INDUCTION PROGRAM PRIOR TO RECEIVING A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE.

(g) (I) WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER EMPLOYING A PERSON AS AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN PROVIDING PERTINENT INFORMATION UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (g).

(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION TO EACH ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER LICENSURE AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-60.5-201 AND BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(h) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM SHALL MEET THE PERFORMANCE-BASED TEACHER LICENSURE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-109 (3).

(3) (a) A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT CHOOSES TO IMPLEMENT AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS

SECTION SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT AND SUBMIT A DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT IT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM. WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE DESIGNATED AGENCY SUBMITS THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM DESCRIPTION TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL NOTIFY THE IMPLEMENTING DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT IT HAS EITHER APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM.

(b) (I) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL, AT ITS DISCRETION, APPROVE AN APPLICATION BY A DESIGNATED AGENCY SEEKING TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM. THE APPLICATION SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND ANY RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS AUTHORIZED TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES THAT MAY ARISE BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS, ACCREDITED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND ACCEPTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH REGARD TO ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAMS.

(II) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS AUTHORIZED, FOR GOOD CAUSE, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY LAW REGARDING A DESIGNATED AGENCY'S ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM IF, IN ITS DISCRETION, IT DEEMS THE WAIVER NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(a) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UPON REQUEST TO ALL DESIGNATED AGENCIES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION; AND

(b) REVIEW AND SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL ALL APPLICATIONS MADE BY DESIGNATED AGENCIES TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

(5) NOT MORE THAN EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PERFORM AN ON-SITE EVALUATION OF EACH ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT IT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM THAT DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO DISAPPROVAL BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM THAT IS DISAPPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL BE TERMINATED BY THE IMPLEMENTING DESIGNATED AGENCY ON COMPLETION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR IN WHICH THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM IS DISAPPROVED; EXCEPT THAT THE DESIGNATED AGENCY MAY CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM IF, PRIOR TO THE END OF SAID ACADEMIC YEAR, THE DESIGNATED AGENCY REDESIGNS THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES THE REDESIGNED ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM.

(6) A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT IS NOT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY CHARGE AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER IN AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM

A FEE IN SUCH AMOUNT AS TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT REVENUE TO OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS TO THE DESIGNATED AGENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM. ANY FEES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION (6) SHALL BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND SHALL NOT BE EXPENDED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

(7) A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT IS AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY ESTABLISH PROGRAM FEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS EXISTING POLICIES. A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH PROGRAM FEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING STATE LAWS AND RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

SECTION 7. 22-60.5-206, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

22-60.5-206. Alternative teacher support teams - duties - advisory councils.

(1) An alternative teacher support team shall be established by the designated agency for each holder of an alternative teacher license employed as an alternative teacher THROUGH AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM. At a minimum, each alternative teacher support team shall be composed of ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher's mentor teacher and the principal and a representative of an accepted institution of higher education, IF APPLICABLE.

(2) The alternative teacher support team shall:

(a) Establish the content of the required program of planned instruction and activities;

(b) Determine at what point in the program ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher may have responsibility for classroom instruction;

(c) ~~Assure~~ ENSURE that a significant portion of the teaching assignment of ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher is in the subject matter area or areas of the alternative teacher's endorsement;

(d) Evaluate the progress and effectiveness of ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher; and

(e) Make a recommendation to the school district or accredited ~~independent~~ NONPUBLIC school that employs ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher ~~as to the~~ CONCERNING HIS OR HER eligibility ~~of the alternative teacher~~ to receive an initial teacher license or whether ~~the alternative teacher~~ HE OR SHE is unable to complete the ONE-YEAR alternative teacher program due to ~~unforeseen~~ UNFORESEEN circumstances, but should apply for an extension of the alternative teacher license with the expectation that ~~the alternative teacher~~ HE OR SHE will complete ~~the~~ HIS OR HER program ~~in the second~~ WITHIN ONE ADDITIONAL year.

(3) As a member of an alternative teacher support team, the mentor teacher has primary responsibility for representing the faculty and parents in evaluating and making recommendations regarding the issuance of an initial teacher license to ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher or renewal of ~~the~~ AN alternative teacher license for one additional year. In recognition of the significant duties and responsibilities of

mentor teachers, the designating school district or accredited ~~independent~~ NONPUBLIC school shall make appropriate ~~provision as is~~ PROVISIONS AS ARE necessary to ensure the proper discharge of such duties and responsibilities by the mentor teacher.

(4) In addition, for purposes of carrying out any alternative teacher program approved by the state board of education, any designated agency shall establish an advisory council ~~which~~ THAT shall include, at a minimum, representatives of each school district or accredited ~~independent~~ NONPUBLIC school, including at least one mentor teacher, and a representative of any accepted institution of higher education in ~~such~~ THE designated agency.

SECTION 8. 22-60.5-207 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

22-60.5-207. Alternative teacher contracts. (2) The term of an alternative teacher contract shall be for one ~~year~~ OR TWO YEARS; except that an employing school district or ~~independent~~ NONPUBLIC school may extend ~~an~~ A ONE-YEAR alternative teacher contract for only one additional year based on written evidence of ~~unforeseen~~ UNFORESEEN circumstances that prevent the alternative teacher from completing the ONE-YEAR alternative teacher program in one year and the expectation of the alternative teacher's support team that he or she can complete the ONE-YEAR alternative teacher program in one additional year.

SECTION 9. Part 3 of article 60.5 of title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION CONTAINING RELOCATED PROVISIONS, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

22-60.5-305.5. [Formerly 22-32-110.4] Alternative principal preparation program. (1) The general assembly finds that there is a shortage of persons in the state who are licensed as principals and are available for employment by school districts. The general assembly further finds that persons who have achieved success in careers outside of education and who are interested in employment as school principals may provide a new source of leadership talent for school districts as they seek to hire school principals. Therefore, the general assembly concludes that it is in the interest of the state to authorize school districts to design and implement individualized alternative principal programs to enable persons from outside the education community to develop the skills and experiences necessary to successfully lead a public school and to ~~ultimately~~ qualify ULTIMATELY for licensure as principals.

(2) A school district may employ as a principal or a vice-principal a person who holds a principal authorization issued pursuant to section 22-60.5-111 (14). A person who is employed under a principal authorization may perform the duties of a principal or a vice-principal in a school so long as the person is under the supervision of a professional principal licensee. The school district shall ~~work collaboratively~~ COLLABORATE with the person in designing an individualized alternative principal program, which the person shall complete while employed under the authorization. The school district may work with a governmental, nonprofit, or for-profit entity in designing and implementing the individualized alternative principal program. The individualized alternative principal program shall be subject to approval by the state board of education as provided in section

22-60.5-111 (14) and in accordance with rules adopted by the state board of education.

(3) In designing an individualized alternative principal program, the school district SHALL, at a minimum, ~~shall~~ ensure that:

(a) The program will provide the information, experience, and training to enable the person who is employed under the principal authorization to develop the skills and obtain the experience and training that are comparable to those possessed by a person who qualifies for an initial principal license, as provided in section 22-60.5-301 (1) (a);

(b) The person who is employed under the principal authorization is required to successfully demonstrate professional competencies in subject matter areas, as specified by rule of the state board pursuant to section 22-60.5-303;

(c) The person who is employed under the principal authorization ~~receives continuous coaching and mentoring~~ IS MENTORED AND COACHED CONTINUOUSLY by one or more licensed principals and administrators;

(d) The person who is employed under the principal authorization is assessed at the beginning of the individualized alternative principal program to determine his or her strengths and weaknesses and that the program is designed to fit the person's individual education and training needs; and

(e) The individualized alternative principal program complements the school improvement plan, if one exists, of the school in which the person who holds a principal authorization would be employed.

(4) In designing an individualized alternative principal program, the school district shall assess the needs of the school to which the person employed under the principal authorization would be assigned and ensure that the person receives training that will equip the person to meet the specific needs of the school and the community in which it is located.

(5) A school district may employ a person who holds a principal authorization for three years. After ~~such period~~ THAT TIME, the school district may employ the person as a principal only if ~~the person~~ HE OR SHE receives an initial or professional principal license pursuant to section 22-60.5-301. The school district may choose to provide an induction program, as described in section 22-60.5-304, for the person while he or she is employed under a principal authorization. The induction program, if provided, shall be in addition to the individualized alternative principal program to be completed by the person while he or she is employed under a principal authorization.

SECTION 10. 22-63-201 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

22-63-201. Employment - license required - exception. (2) (a) The general assembly hereby recognizes that many persons with valuable professional expertise in areas other than teaching provide a great benefit to students ~~in~~ THROUGH their experience and functional knowledge when hired by a school district. ~~to teach.~~ To

facilitate the employment of these persons and comply with the requirements of federal law, the general assembly has statutory provisions to create an alternative teacher license and alternative teacher programs to enable school districts ~~to create teacher in residence programs~~ to employ persons with expertise in professions other than teaching. These provisions enable a school district to employ a person with professional expertise in a particular subject area, while ensuring that the person receives the necessary training and develops the necessary skills to be a highly qualified teacher. The general assembly strongly encourages each school district to hire persons who hold alternative teacher licenses ~~and teacher in residence authorizations~~ to provide a wide range of experience in teaching and functional subject matter knowledge for the benefit of the students enrolled in the school district.

(b) A school district may hire a person who holds an alternative teacher license to teach as an alternative teacher pursuant to an alternative teacher contract as described in section 22-60.5-207. ~~A school district may hire a person who holds a teacher in residence authorization to teach as a resident teacher pursuant to a teacher in residence program implemented by the school district or a board of cooperative services pursuant to section 22-32-110.3.~~

SECTION 11. 22-63-402, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

22-63-402. Services - disbursements. No order or warrant for the disbursement of school district moneys shall be drawn in favor of any person for services as a teacher, except for services performed for a junior college district or in an adult education program, unless ~~such~~ THE person ~~either~~ holds a valid teacher's license or authorization from the department of education. ~~or is employed as a resident teacher pursuant to section 22-32-110.3.~~ Such license OR authorization ~~or residency~~ shall be duly registered in the administrative office of the school district wherein the services are to be rendered. A teacher shall ~~either~~ hold a valid license or authorization ~~or be employed as a resident teacher~~ during all periods of employment by a school district. ~~Any~~ A person who performs services as a teacher without ~~either~~ possessing a valid teacher's license or authorization ~~or being employed as a resident teacher~~ shall forfeit all claim to compensation out of school district moneys for the time during which services are performed without ~~such~~ THE license OR authorization. ~~or residency.~~

SECTION 12. 23-1-121 (6), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of teacher preparation programs.
 (6) The department shall annually prepare a report concerning the effectiveness of the review of teacher preparation programs conducted pursuant to this section and shall provide notice to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, that the report is available to ~~the~~ COMMITTEE members of the committees upon request. The report shall also state the percentage of teacher candidates graduating from each teacher preparation program during the preceding twelve months that applied for and received an initial teacher license pursuant to section 22-60.5-201, C.R.S., ~~and~~ the percentage of the graduates who passed the assessments administered pursuant to section 22-60.5-203, C.R.S., AND THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAMS THAT ARE COLLABORATING OR AFFILIATED WITH

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-205, C.R.S. The education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, shall consider the report in a joint meeting held pursuant to section 22-60.5-116.5, C.R.S.

SECTION 13. Appropriation. In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the educator licensure cash fund created in section 22-60.5-112 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of education, management and administration, office of professional services, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 14. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 21, 2009